

## **V. Hawaii**

### **Background and Current Status:**

Newborn hearing screening began in two Honolulu hospitals in 1992. By 2000, all fifteen birthing facilities were providing screening. The structure and protocol for screening, notification, audiological assessment and referral to EI services are in place. Newborn hearing screening is standard medical practice for newborn care; parent consent for screening is not required.

The NHS system uses HI\*TRACK data tracking software, which is installed in all birth hospitals and in the state-level NBS Program office. Hospitals send data electronically twice a month to the state-level NBS Program HI\*TRACK system to be merged. The audiological assessment data, recommendations for management, and date of referral to the EI programs are entered into the state-level HI\*TRACK system only.

Currently the CSHNB data systems include at least five separate management information systems (MIS) using different software, data fields, and structure for similar fields, and operating in separate programs with different missions, policies and practices. These systems are:

#### **NHS MIS**

EI MIS (in development, to be completed in summer 2001) - to include Healthy Start MIS and Early Intervention Section MIS.C  
Newborn Metabolic Screening (NMS) MISC  
Children with Special Health Needs Program (CSHNP) MIS

### **Other relevant tracking and surveillance systems not under FHSD are:**

Birth registry: Office of Health Status Monitoring  
Public Health Nursing Branch MIS (PHNs serve children with developmental delays and medical/health problems and certain environmentally at risk families with young children)  
Birth defects surveillance

### **Proposed Tracking and Surveillance**

The Hawaii project "Tracking, Integration and Research for Early Screening, Assessment and Intervention" (EASI) proposes to link relevant MISs. Based on information about each system and input from Advisors and technical experts, project staff will determine integration strategies. The Project Director will collaborate with other funded projects to develop standardized data collection, tracking and analysis methodology.

### **Objectives include:**

- Integrate NHS with EI system.
- Integrate NMS with the integrated NHS/EI system.
- Establish a link exporting information from PHNB-MIS into EASI integrated system.

- Explore and implement a practicable method for verifying that NHS and NMS programs screen all live births.
- Develop data reporting systems to support surveillance, epidemiological analyses, research, and quality assurance.

The Project Director will investigate confidentiality issues and the use of unique identifiers. EASI will implement firewall as recommended.

**For more information about the Hawaii program please contact:**

Pat Heu

(808) 733-9070

plheu@mail.fhsd.health.state.hi.us